April 13 – 19, 2023 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 15 www.associatednewspapers.net

Northville streets to reopen November through April

Northville officials have approved the reopening of downtown streets following a sometimes contentious public meeting April 3 regarding the issue. Main Street from Center Street to Hutton Street, and Center from Main to Dunlap Street will reopen to vehicle traffic each November and close to traffic in May.

Members of the Northville City Council have agreed to the seasonal closures following the input at the public meeting. The downtown streets were temporarily closed in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closures were first extended by council members and then made year-round last August.

In addition to the public criticisms of the closures, city officials were threatened with the loss of funding for the streets by officials from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). City officials had until mid-April to notify MDOT as to the status of the streets.

Residents complained that the re-routing of traffic through the adjacent side streets was problematic and access to those with disabilities adversely affected by the closures. Local residents and business owners appeared evenly divided on the question of keeping the streets permanently closed.

Mayor Brian Turnbull said he was fully supportive of a compromise regarding the street closures. "Whatever we do, we have to come together on this," he told the overflow crowd of several hundred audience members, attending both online and in person. A local display of pink signs requesting the reopening of the streets had appeared throughout the community and more than 500 people reportedly signed an online petition to reopen the downtown streets.

Business owners told city council members that the closings have been helpful to their bottom lines but agreed that a compromise to the permanent closings was necessary.

A mobility committee, the Northville Public Schools and the Northville Downtown Development Authority all recommended at least a partial reopening of the downtown streets.

Council members unanimously approved a resolution as required by MDOT to close the streets from late April to early November and for intermittent closures for special events.

State Supreme Court refuses to hear water rate appeal

> *We are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this court.*

Increased water fees in local communities this year will not include payment of the $21 million debt owed by the City of Highland Park to the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

Officials from GLWA attempted last year to increase water fees to the other 124 communities in the tri-county area which purchase water from the authority to compensate for the more than $21 million the City of Highland Park had failed to pay. That increase, subsequently withdrawn, was set to begin last year. The proposed increase prompted formal protests and threatened legal action from local officials claiming their communities should not be responsible for the Highland Park debt. The court upheld that argument and ruled that the debt was the responsibility of Highland Park.

That ruling was upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals and last week, judges at the Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear another appeal from the City of Highland Park to reconsider the ruling. Michigan State Supreme Court judges noted in the statement refusing to hear the appeal, "… We are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this court."

Highland Park was first sued by GLWA in 2014, accused of failing to comply with a 2009 agreement negotiated to address outstanding debt for several years of sewage service.

The debt continued to increase and in 2015, the Court of Appeals affirmed that Highland Park was responsible for the obligation.

Years of counterclaims and legal arguments followed, with Highland Park claiming the city had been overcharged and was not obligated to pay years of rate increases.

In response, GLWA proposed a significant increase in water costs to the other member communities in an effort to compensate for the more than $20 million in lost revenue. The local communities included Belleville, Canton Township, Inkster, City and Township of Northville, City and Township of Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland, all of which formally protested the increase as did other communities in both Macomb and Wayne counties.

Board members of the GLWA voted last year to cut $6.7 million related to the Highland Park water debt from overall rate increases slated to begin in July 2022. The move followed rejection from the suburban communities and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer about forcing the contested debt onto other water customers.

In February, the authority board of directors unanimously approved a 2.75 percent increase in wholesale water and sewerage water rates for the 2024 fiscal year starting July 1. The Highland Park debt was not included in those charges. Despite a court order, officials said that Highland Park is mak-

See **Water,** page 6

Plymouth community mourns death of Gene Overholt, 99

The Plymouth community is mourning the death of Gene Robert Overholt, 99, who died at his daughter's home in Kerrville, Texas March 31 surrounded by his family.

Gene Robert Overholt

Mr. Overholt was born in Bippus, Indiana in 1924, and grew up in Huntington Indiana. Following his high school graduation, he served in World War II on the battlefield operating the communication channels which led to his career as a "telephone man." He served in the European Theatre and the Battle of the Bulge.

He married the love of his life, the late Jane Johnson Overholt in 1944, and the couple came to Plymouth in 1946 where he took a job with Michigan Bell. The couple were wed for 69 years before her death in 2013.

Mr. Overholt served his community his entire life, his family and admirers said. He helped develop the Salvation Army in Plymouth in 1962 and continued to serve on the board until his death. He was a member of the Plymouth United Methodist Church and served in many capacities during the decades. He served as a Plymouth Township Trustee during the 1960s and is included in the prestigious Plymouth Hall of Fame.

In 1967, Mr. Overholt was among the group of Plymouth men who chartered the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. He served both his local community and the world through his work with the Kiwanis organization. He served as president of the local club and became Governor of the State of Michigan for Kiwanis. He proceeded to go through the chairs to become president of Kiwanis International in 1988-1989. He was instrumental in Kiwanis International decision to accept women into their clubs.

Mr. Overholt and his wife traveled to 40 different countries visiting heads of state and Kiwanis Clubs all over the world. He visited the Oval Office twice and met three U.S. presidents.

Mr. Overholt was a familiar sight in annual Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades in the community, traveling in vehicles decorated with American flags.

As a Salvation Army Plymouth Corp Advisory Board member since 1962, he would come in early in the mornings to count the money from the Red Kettles every Christmas season through this past year, friends recalled

Among his survivors are his daughters, Jodi Overholt Ring, Barbara Overholt (Michael) Toth, Carole Overholt Brooks;

See **Overholt,** page 3

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 15

Owners of damaged blighted structures in Sumpter Township unable or unwilling to maintain their properties could find themselves facing court proceedings.

See page 5.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 15

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center Lead #LikeAGirl and Transpire programs recently received a $15,000 donation provided by Masco Corp.

See page 3.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 76, No. 15

The City of Inkster received a $1.2 million grant from the State of Michigan which will be used to establish The Inkster Historical Cultural Arts Museum.

See page 6.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 15

Sue Hillebrand was honored as the 2023 Northville Citizen of the Year during the first comprehensive Northville Community Awards Dinner.

See page 2.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 15

The Plymouth District Library will host an after-hours gala in celebration of its 100th year serving the Plymouth community.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 138, No. 15

A routine traffic stop by officers from the Romulus Police Department resulted in the recovery of three illicit handguns from a suspect who fled the vehicle on foot.

See page 5.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 15

The City of Wayne Police Department officially welcomed new Ofc. Mohammed Alzayadi during a recent meeting of the members of the city council.

See page 6.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 15

Westland Mayor Michael P. Londeau presented a $79 million 3-year balanced budget to members of the city council for approval during the March 31 meeting.

See page 4.

Northville

Northville chamber celebrates Citizen of the Year

Sue Hillebrand has been honored as the 2023 Northville Citizen of the Year.

Her selection was announced during the recent first comprehensive Northville Community Awards Dinner organized by the Northville Chamber of Commerce. The evening began with dinner at Genitti's and then audiences walked the red carpet at the Marquis Theatre for the awards presentation.

Hillebrand served as the longest elected township clerk (26 years) during a time of great growth in the community, officials said. She conducted 30 successful elections, earned the Master Municipal Clerk certification, and served on various state and county clerks' boards.

Hillebrand has also served the community as a member of the Township Board of Trustees, the Beautification Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. She continued, even after her retirement in 2019, to serve as a resource and mentor to township staff, generously giving of her time and talents for the betterment of the entire Northville community, according to a prepared statement from Chamber of Commerce officials who noted that these were some of the qualifications in awarding Hillebrand the Citizen of the Year honor.

"It is because of these traits, and all she has done for the community over the past three decades, that Sue Hillebrand was named Citizen of the Year," officials said.

Other yearly volunteer awards were also presented including:

Library Volunteer of the Year award - Linda Bastien

In 2017, Linda Bastien, along with her husband, Will, took over the management of the Friends of the Northville District Library Used Book Donation Program. On any given week, the people of Northville donate 700 - 1,000 used books to the library. More than 50 volunteers work on this endeavor and Bastien coordinates the entire operation. The Used Book program annually provides 50 percent of the total funding raised by the Friends of the Library.

The money generated by Friends of the Northville District Library supports many initiatives, including its annual Battle of the Books - a middle school reading tournament, which had 115 competitors this year, officials said.

Northville Township Volunteer of Year Award - Jeffrey Oles

All trails in Northville Township led to Jeff Oles. He's been a township resident since 2005 and a passionate mountain biker. He's created a lot of the township paths by working on them, planning them, or recommending routes

When Northville Township prepared a Master Plan in 2010 for Legacy Park, (332 acres of the former state psychiatric hospital property), mountain bike trails weren't part of the plan. That quickly changed thanks to Oles and his extensive network. He was invited to help put in trails on the eastern end of the park, according to an official statement from chamber officials.

City Volunteer of the Year - Nancy Darga

Nancy Darga has faithfully served the city of Northville and Wayne County in many capacities as an employee, elected official, and volunteer over the years, resulting in positive, meaningful changes in our community, officials said. She previously worked 27 years for Wayne County Road Commission and Wayne County Parks, giving her a vast and deep knowledge of local infrastructure and environmental concerns, they added.

Darga is a founding member of the Friends of the River Rouge and Motor City National Heritage Area, and a long-time supporter of Mill Race Village. Darga was a Northville City Council member for 12 years and she served more than 20 years with the Parks and Recreation Department. She now serves as chair of the River Restoration Task Force, a team dedicated to restoring the health of Northville waterways, daylighting the Rouge River and establishing walking trails, along with overseeing the planning of the future Farmers' Market and the Ford Field initiative.

Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year - Sher Watkins

For more than 10 years, Watkins managed the Northville Farmers Market. Additionally, she has been actively involved with the Farmers Market Task Force, ensuring the success of the next generation of this award-winning market.

When asked to assist with the Farmers Market last year, Watkins flew home from Mackinac Island to assist in the successful launch of the market. Watkins Sher has used her experience with the Michigan Farmers' Market Association to the benefit of all in our community. Her involvement has helped make the Northville Farmers' Market an award-winning gathering and the largest Thursday market in the state, officials said.

Sue Hillebrand, second from left, named 2023 Northville Citizen of the Year celebrates with the other award winners at the recent Northville Community Awards Dinner organized by the Northville Chamber of Commerce. Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo, far left, congratulated all the winners.

Master plan meeting set

Northville Township officials have scheduled an open house meeting to discuss proposed updates to the township Master Plan.

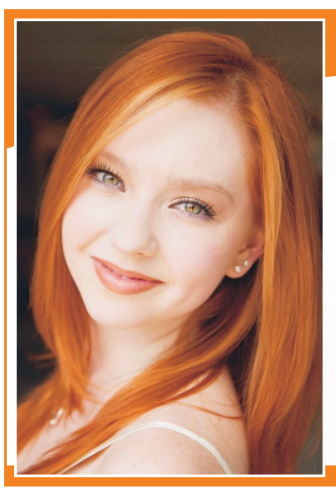
The meeting, set for 5:30 until 7 p.m. April 24 at township hall will include a presentation of the draft plan by consultant team, Kendig Keast Collaborative.

The updating process began last summer, officials said.

During that time, officials solicited public and professional input, made numerous site visits, met with elected and appointed officials, and analyzed best practices, all of which formed the basis for the draft plan.

The Master Plan will outline vision, guiding principles, goals and actions centered around topics including growth capacity; land use and development; transportation; economic development and recreation and amenities.

No advance preparation or review is necessary and materials will be provided on-site for review and discussion, officials said.



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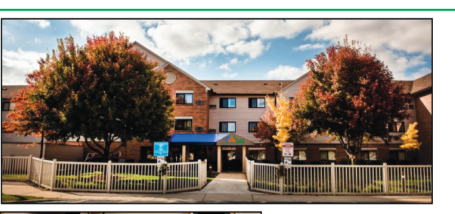

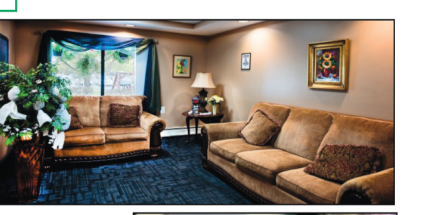

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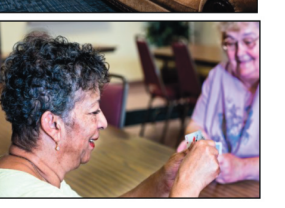

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Are you ready to help our community thrive, prosper and grow?

We invite you to join the Kiwanis® Club of Colonial Plymouth.

To contact Kiwanis Club President Jack Schwartz, send an email to presidentplymouthnoonkiwanis@gmail.com or leave a message at (734) 765-0502.

Kiwanis®

CANTON - PLYMOUTH

B.L.O.C.K. programs awarded $15,000 grant

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center Lead #LikeAGirl and Transpire programs recently received a $15,000 donation provided by Masco Corp.

Lead #LikeAGirl is an award-winning program that serves a diverse group of young women between the ages of 11-16 and is designed to change the way that these participants think about what it means to Lead #LikeAGirl. Developed in 2016 by The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, this nine-month program enables participants to challenge themselves through workshops, activities, and conversations that are centered around self-esteem, healthy living and relationships, women in the media, service learning, women who wow and much more noted township Recreation Specialist Chelsea Straub. Participants who complete the nine-month commitment graduate from the program in front of family and friends, celebrating their new understanding of what it really means to Lead #LikeAGirl, she added.

The program sessions take place at The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center monthly, Transpire provides support, education, and advocacy for area LBGTQ+ students, who can engage in discussions, plan activities, and build community with their peers. The Transpire program has been available to teens since 2020, in partnership with Plymouth-Canton PFLAG (Parents, Friends, Family) and Allies United with LGBTQ+ individuals. Workshops covering a variety of topics such as: Read Between the Lines, Safe and Inclusive Schools, and Overcoming Adversity are led by a professional and are followed by a variety of social opportunities, Straub said.

"We are incredibly grateful to receive this support for two of our very popular programs at The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center," said Straub. "These contributions truly have a major impact on numerous participants in our Lead #LikeAGirl and Transpire programs and on behalf of all our staff, I sincerely want to thank Masco for its continued generous support."

The Masco Corporation is a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of branded home improvement and building products and operates 30 manufacturing facilities in North America in other parts of the world.

"The grant is part of Masco's Million Differences campaign, an initiative in which Masco, through its business units, has cumulatively made $5 million in cash donations over the last five years to nonprofit organizations that support diversity, equity and more includes practices across the country," said Susan Sabo, Masco director of communications and corporate giving.

"The B.L.O.C.K.'s Lead #LikeAGirl and Transpire programs were nominated as the recipient of this donation because of the important mentoring opportunities they provide these young adults within the Canton community."

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, located on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. For more information, visit www.cantonfun.org/146 or call (734) 398-5570.

Library gala is planned

The Plymouth District Library will host an after-hours gala in celebration of its 100th year serving the Plymouth community.

The gala will take place from 7 until 10 p.m. Saturday, April 29 and is for those 21 and older. Organizers said black tie is optional.

Tickets for the evening are $100 per person and will include hors d'oeuvres, open bar with wine and beer, and live music in the stacks by the Kennebec Avenue Jazz Group.

During this centennial year, the library is developing plans to overhaul the outdoor environment at the facility, including more native and pollinator-friendly plantings and the addition of a natural amphitheater space for outdoor programming.

Proceeds from anniversary gala, along with generous contributions from the Wilcox Foundation and the Friends of the Plymouth District Library, will make this vision a reality, organizers said.

Tickets for the event are now available at plymouthlibrary.org.

Hit and run driver still sought

Plymouth Township Police have reissued a request for help from the public in identifying a hit and run driver involved in a fatal accident last fall.

> "Crime Stoppers is offering a $2,500 reward."

Police said the vehicle involved in the death of 78-year-old Warren Flagg, never stopped after striking him as he was raking leaves in front of his Beck Road home. The car is believed to be a 2007 to 2010 Pontiac Solstice which would have sustained damage to the front passenger side of the vehicle.

The incident took place on Beck Road, between Powell and North Territorial Road Oct. 30, police said. A passing motorist saw Mr. Flagg laying near the roadway and stopped to render first aid. Mr. Flagg was transported to a nearby hospital where he later died of his injuries.

Crime Stoppers of Michigan is offering a $2,500 reward for information that leads to an arrest in the case. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP or visit www.1800speakup.org. Callers can remain anonymous.

Overholt

FROM PAGE 1

son-in-law Howard Ring; grandchildren Jason Brooks and Amy Price Brooks, Kristin Brooks, Scott Schopieray PHD, Megan Ring Aurora MD and Peter Aurora PHD; great grandchildren Aidan, Addison and Avery Brooks, Wesley and Henry Schopieray and Tommy and Lucy Aurora, along with a multitude of friends and admirers.

Mr. Overholt founded the Gene and Jane Overholt Educational Scholarship Foundation in honor of his three daughters who were teachers in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools District. These scholarships have been awarded to students that are going into education or any service profession.

Arrangements were entrusted to Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home in Plymouth.

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Westland

Mayor presents balanced 3-year city budget

Westland Mayor Michael P. Londeau presented a $79 million 3-year balanced budget to members of the city council for approval during the March 31 meeting.

The balanced budget includes a rainy-day fund balance of about $6.5 million and is the plan for 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2-25-26.

" A 3-year balanced budget is a municipal industry best practice and also lines up with our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds spending timeline. The city is in a strong financial position and this budget is expected to have a positive impact on the city's bond rating," Londeau told the council members.

The budget is based on an overall taxable value increase of 7.28 percent due to market value increases and uncapping of taxable value due to new homes and home sales and an increase of approximately $778,000 to operating tax revenue.

Londeau included $4.8 million for improvements to the major and local roads throughout the city in 15 neighborhoods which includes 56 major and local roads. The proposed budget also includes $4.6 million for planned water and sewer capital projects in six neighborhoods and 40 roads throughout the 611 miles of water and sewer systems in the city.

Retiree healthcare contributions of $500,000 are included in the 3-year plan along with $150,000 to continue the voluntary retiree healthcare cash settlement program, which received four interested retirees in the 2021-22 fiscal year, saving approximately $1,800,000, according to budget documents.

> *"The city is in a strong financial position.*

Londeau also proposed the addition of two full time ordinance officers along with continued supplemental officers to support the efforts of neighborhood services based on workload requirements.

Funding for trash pickup bulk items to be set out at the curb during normal residential pickups and for the new leaf pickup program is included. Londeau said the costs do not exceed the current revenues received for sanitation efforts.

The budget includes funding to update the city master plan.

A new $5 million sidewalk program is included in the budget and is expected to reduce the city liability for any hazards that may exist. Also included is $3 million to support the police and fire departments in retention and recruitment efforts.

This leaves an unallocated balance of approximately $5 million of ARPA funds, according to a statement from the city.

The budget also includes various capital investments of approximately $1.4 million, which includes a new roof for the 18th District Court building.

Budget study sessions, which are open to the public, are scheduled from 1- a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 and Saturday, April 22 at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road.

"My administration is proud to present council with a 3-year balanced budget," Londeau said.

Random Acts of Kindness recognized by city council

Three more students were honored last week for their Random Acts of Kindness by members of the Westland City Council.

A program of the Westland Compassionate City Committee and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, the three winners were Liam Craig of Schweitzer Elementary, Daylen Bell of Taft-Galloway Elementary, and Ja'Cion Barnett-Robinson of Walker-Winter Elementary.

Craig is constantly a shining star in class, according to his nomination, and he goes above and beyond what is asked and helps others with whatever they need. Craig is a constant leader and doing the right thing, his teacher said. He will play with students at recess who don't have someone to play with and is constantly looking out for his friends and classmates to ensure that they are safe, his nomination form stated

Bell takes it upon himself to clean up the classroom floor without being asked by the teacher and is a great friend, an awesome student and a wonderful son, according to his nomination.

Barnett-Robinson has earned more cards for kindness than any other student at Walker-Winter, his nomination form explained. From offering some of his food to another student that didn't have anything, to taking initiative and helping others around the classroom without being asked, Barnett-Robinson has been kind, caring, and compassionate during his attendance at Walker-Winter school.

Liam Craig of Schweitzer Elementary, Daylen Bell of Taft-Galloway Elementary, and Ja'Cion Barnett-Robinson of Walker-Winter Elementary were recently honored by members of the Westland City Council for their Random Acts of Kindness.

Council representatives thanked the students, parents, teachers and faculty members who have participated in the program.

200 pets receive vaccinations

More than 200 Westland residents and 40 veterans took advantage of the low cost dog vaccination day at the Wayne Ford Civic League recently. Dogs received vaccinations for rabies, distemper, parvo and lepto for $20 administered by the veterinary team from the Michigan Humane Society.

Dog licenses were issued for $13 and $7 for dogs that were spayed or neutered and microchipping was available. Fees for dogs belonging to veterans were paid by the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

The program was organized by the Westland the Department of Neighborhood Services.

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CITY OF ROMULUS
CITY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON THE ADOPTION OF A BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ROMULUS PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1996, AS AMENDED.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a Public Hearing shall be held before the City Council of the City of Romulus on the 24th day of April 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, on the adoption of a Brownfield Plan for the City of Romulus. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority shall exercise its powers pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended (Act 381).

The description of the proposed brownfield property is:

Land situated in the City of Romulus, Wayne County, State of Michigan, described as follows:

The eligible property consists of six (6) parcels, bounded to the north by Ecorse Road; to the east by Shook Road; to the south by Wick Road; and to the west by Cogswell Street in the City of Romulus, Michigan. The eligible property addresses and parcel identification numbers are:

- Ecorse/Wick (80028990012703) - former Wick Road Dump parcel (224.89 acres)
- 36411 Ecorse Road (80030990007000) - former Mendrek Dump parcel (40.86 acres)
- Ecorse (80030990006700) - former agricultural parcel (20.37 acres)
- 36775 Ecorse Road (80030990004000) - residential parcel (0.43 acres)
- 36695 Ecorse Road (80030990002000) - residential parcel (2.14 acres)
- Ecorse Road (80030990005700) - residential parcel (0.65 acres)

The proposed brownfield plan would allow Romulus Distribution Center to be reimbursed for eligible costs incurred to prepare the brownfield property for redevelopment. Eligible costs may include costs authorized by Act 381, including environmental, demolition, and hazardous materials costs. The brownfield plan must first be approved by the City Council.

This description of the property, along with any maps and a description of the Brownfield Plan, are available for public inspection at 11111 Wayne Road Romulus, MI 48174 Clerks Office.

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to participate in the public hearing effectively should contact the City Clerk or send an email by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to request assistance at:

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 (734) 942-7540, clerk@romulusgov.com.

All aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.

ELLEN L. CRAIG-BRAGG, MiPMC II, CMC
CITY CLERK
Publish: April 13, 2023

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCL 15.263a et. seq., and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA).

RM0731 - 041323 2.5 x 7.553

ROMULUS - SUMPTER

Trustees OK changes to township blight ordinance

Owners of damaged blighted buildings or property in Sumpter Township unable or unwilling to repair or maintain the structures could find themselves facing court proceedings.

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved revised language to the current blight ordinance, allowing township officials to take legal action against owners of blighted properties in the community.

Township attorney Rob Young requested the new ordinance language explaining that the township needed an ordinance in place to allow the police department to take legal action against owners who refuse or are unable to repair or maintain blighted properties in violation of current standards in the township. Enforcement duties for properties determined to be blighted were transferred to the police department last year and officers have been attempting to move unsightly buildings into ordinance compliance or if unsuccessful, seek demolition of the structure.

When efforts to return properties to compliance with local ordinances are exhausted, township officials can now seek official action through the court. Young said changes to the current blight ordinance were necessary to ensure the township can take "injunctive, equitable relief" at the district court when buildings need to be razed against resistance of the owners. He added that it had come to his attention that changes were needed to ensure the township could take legal action and seek injunctive relief from "those who for periods of time can play with the law."

> *Township officials can now seek official action through the court.*

"We just need an ordinance that recognizes our opportunity to seek equitable relief," Young told the board members.

Young said the changes were necessary to allow police officers to proceed in the demolition of blighted buildings. He told the board members that while ordinance officers are "moving deliberately and diligently down that road" changes to the current ordinance allowing the township to take legal action were necessary.

Young asked for the changes to be placed on the meeting agenda and for approval of the new language during the meeting.

The new language, crafted by Young during the March 28 meeting, was approved by board members.

Disarmed

Police confiscate illegal weapons

Last Thursday, a routine traffic stop by officers from the Romulus Police Department resulted in the recovery of three handguns from an armed suspect who fled the vehicle on foot.

Officers conducted the traffic stop of a vehicle that appeared to be "casing" a local neighborhood when the driver committed a traffic violation, according to police reports of the incident.

When officers stopped the 21-year-old driver, he fled on foot from officers and a foot chase ensued in which the non-resident was quickly apprehended. Officers later discovered the man was armed and had pending legal charges and a warrant for his arrest from another jurisdiction.

Police officers subsequently discovered three handguns, one reported as stolen and another an untraceable "ghost gun" with no serial numbers or tracing. The suspect was remanded to police custody pending execution of the arrest warrant.

Volunteers sought for Earth Day park cleanup

Sumpter Township residents can celebrate Earth Day with a volunteer cleanup of Banotai Park.

Volunteers are being sought for the effort at the park, located at 24300 Sherwood Road. The event is set for 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 22 and is being organized by the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission members.

Volunteers are asked to bring tools and an "adventurous spirit" during the event. The township will provide hot dogs, potato chips and bottled water for volunteer workers.

There will also be a plant exchange, organizers said.

Banotai Municipal Park is located at the corner of Wear and Sherwood roads. The park is named for the late Marvin L. Banotai, a past supervisor and lifetime resident of Sumpter Township.

On a roll

Winners of an essay contest sponsored by the Romulus Police Department were recently awarded new bikes. Students in grades 3 to 5 at Halecreek Elementary School were asked to write an essay explaining why they would like to have a new bicycle. Officer Christopher Reyna and teacher Julie Flinkman reviewed the entries and selected the winners. Teachers Christopher Parker, Sarah Carter, Flinkman and members of the Romulus Police Department presented the bicycles to the happy young winners.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing for the 2023 sidewalk program on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00pm at Plymouth Township Hall, located at 9955 North Haggerty Road in the township board room.

The repair program will require the replacement of any 4", 6", and 8" depth sidewalk determined to be defective per the township sidewalk ordinance. At this meeting, a resolution to require the sidewalk repairs in 2023 will be considered by the township board and any public questions or concerns on the sidewalk program may be voiced. If your property is found to have sidewalk defects needing repairs, you will receive a letter from the township with information on the program and the estimated costs for the sidewalk repairs on your property. For any questions regarding the program, please call the township engineer at (248) 844-6279 or email sidewalks@plymouthtwp.org.

Jerry Vorva
Plymouth Township Clerk

Publish:
March 14, 2023

PT0305 - 041323 2.5 x 2.312

CITY OF ROMULUS
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus Board of Zoning Appeals will hold the following public hearings at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023** at the Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road to consider the following petitions:

1. BZA-2023-004; **Marcus Gwyn**, requesting a variance from Section 3.05(a)(2), Fences of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a fence in the exterior side yard of a corner lot. The petitioner is proposing to install a 4' black aluminum fence along Abbey Drive which is considered a front yard (or exterior side yard). The subject property is located at **7244 Townsend Drive** (DP# 80-029-02-0151-000).
2. BZA-2023-005; **Greer A. Brooks**, requesting a variance from Section 3.07(a), Schedule of Regulations of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a 38.4-foot front yard setback on Valley View Dr. where a 50-foot front yard setback is required. The subject property is located at **15993 Fern Drive** (DP# 80-122-01-0034-000).
3. BZA-2023-006; **ISSA Logistics**, requesting the following variances:
   a. From Section 11.12(c)(3), Transportation and Warehousing of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for 34,500 SF of outdoor storage where up to 14,946 SF is allowed.
   b. From Section 8.04(b)(6)(a), Area, Height and Placement Requirements of the Zoning Ordinance to allow ISSA Logistics truck traffic to utilize Beverly Plaza, which is not a city truck route.

   The subject property is located at **6532 Beverly Plaza** (DP# 80-008-02-0008-000)
4. BZA-2023-007; **Nashat Yaldo - Parking Lot**, requesting a variance from Section 8.04(a) Area, Height, and Placement Requirements to reduce the side yard setback to 15.3' from the required 50' from adjacent residential. The subject property is located at **28305 Goddard Road** (DP# 80-093-99-0015-000).

Copies of the applications are available for review in the Planning Department located at the Department of Public Services (12600 Wayne Road) during regular business hours which are 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Carol Maise, City Planning in the Planning Department at 734-955-4530. Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said requests. Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the Planning Secretary (734-955-4530) 48 hours prior to the meeting. Our staff will be pleased to make necessary arrangements.

Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 13, 2023

RM0729 - 041323 2.5 x 6.552

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Inkster - Wayne

Grant will fund new Inkster cultural, arts museum

Officials from the City of Inkster and State Sen. Dayna Polehanki, D-Livonia, joined residents last week to celebrate a $1.2 million grant from the State of Michigan which will be used to establish The Inkster Historical Cultural Arts Museum.

Polehanki worked through the State Appropriations Committee to secure the funding which will renovate a historic building in the city into the new arts and cultural museum. She represents the 5th District which includes a portion of Livonia, Canton Township, Garden City, Inkster, and Westland.

The grant will fund the redesign and renovation of the new museum, which officials predicted would become a hub for arts and culture in the community.

Plans include construction of a modern and accessible space for community events, performances, exhibitions, and workshops, officials said.

"The Inkster Historical Cultural Arts Museum will serve as a valuable resource for residents and visitors alike, promoting arts and culture in Inkster and beyond," said Inkster Mayor Patrick Wimberly.

The check presentation ceremony took place last week.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant which will allow us to create a vibrant cultural center that celebrates the African American heritage and creativity of our community," said Wimberly, during the official presentation ceremony. "The Inkster Historical Cultural Arts Museum will be a place for all of us to come together, to learn, to create, and to enjoy the arts."

Officials estimate the new Inkster Historical Cultural Arts Museum could open to the public next year and officials said regular updates of progress and plans would be forthcoming. No start date for construction at the site was announced.

Inkster Mayor Patrick Wimberly, Inkster City Councilwoman La'Gina Washington, State Sen. Dayna Polehanki, Inkster City Councilman George Williams and Inkster City Councilman Dennard Shaw were on hand to celebrate the state grant awarded to the city last week.

On the job

The City of Wayne Police Department officially welcomed new Ofc. Mohammed Alzayadi, who was sworn in during a recent meeting of the members of the city council. Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong introduced the new officer the city officials just prior to his taking his oath of office from Wayne City Clerk Tina M. Rowe.

Water

FROM PAGE 1

ing only partial payment of less than 50 percent of the amount ordered by the court, so the unpaid debt continues to grow at about $3.5 million annually.

Some officials estimated that the mounting debt of Highland Park could be as much as $56 million as the fees for water continue to accrue.

Local officials predicted that state courts would be required to intervene and come to settlement terms of the outstanding obligation recognizing the current rulings which have excluded other member communities from responsibility for the Highland Park debt.

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AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION

GARRATT
& BACHAND, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

74 WEST LONG LAKE ROAD
SUITE 200
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304
(248) 645-1450 • FAX (248) 645-2311

SEASON OPENING APRIL 11
We're all looking forward to seeing you back at the farm this spring!
In 2023, watch for new animals, new educational opportunities & new group membership options!
Northville Community Foundation MAYBURY FARM
50165 8 Mile Rd., Northville, 248-374-0200, mayburyfarm.org

MAKING AN IMPACT SINCE 1924
Rotary Club of Plymouth
JOIN US TODAY AND LET THE FUN BEGIN!
THE SERVICE HEARTBEAT OF PLYMOUTH
The Rotary Club of Plymouth has a 100-year legacy of service to our local and global community. Join the business and community leaders of today, and tomorrow, as we affect lasting change through Service Above Self. Here are some examples of our local, national, and global impact.
• Local economic stimulus like Ice Festival Bingo and Shamrock on the Shelf
• Local vocational and Memorial Scholarships
• Four-Way Test essay program for local middle school students
• Local park and community beautification
• Plymouth's Opportunity House holiday party
• Foreign exchange student sponsorship and hosting
• International Days for Girls feminine hygiene project
• National and international clean water projects
• Ukraine relief for medical equipment and supplies
• Global polio eradication
Service Above Self
plymouthrotary.org
Rotary Club of Plymouth

Romulus Athletic Center
Lifeguard Training Course
LIFEGUARD
April 21, 22, 23, 2023
Friday: 5-8:30pm
Saturday: 9am-5:30pm
Sunday: 9am-5:30pm
There is about 7 hours of online work to do, the week before class starts.
Cost: $150 for Non RAC employees
Register in person at: Romulus Athletic Center
35765 Northline Road, Romulus, MI 48174
You must be registered by Tuesday April 18th!
Training is free for those in the hiring process to be a Romulus Athletic Center Lifeguard.
You must work for the RAC for at least 3 months and 10 hours a week minimum.
Apply at www.rinkmanagement.com/careers Select Romulus Location and Aquatics.
Fill out an application for the lifeguard position. Then contact Randy at the number below and let him know you applied. Applications are due by Sunday April 16th, 2023
Participants will be certified in American Red Cross Lifeguarding that includes First Aid, CPR, AED and Oxygen use. Participants must pass swimming prerequisites which include a 300 yard swim, being able to tread water for 2 minutes without using your arms, and a deep water brick retrieval test.
You must be at least 15 years of age to participate in the class, must attend all class sessions.
You must be at least 16 years of age to be hired by the RAC.
Contact Randy for more information at 734-942-2230 or rferguson@romulusathleticcenter.com